

DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM

Housing and Community Development Corporation of Hawaii

News Release

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SENIOR HOUSING INITIATIVE LAUNCHED

The Kalakaua Supportive Housing and Resident Enrichment (SHARE) program celebrates its Grand Opening between 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. on Monday, March 17, 2003.

The SHARE program will support the independent living of the approximately 550 elderly and disabled residents at three public housing developments in the 1500 block of Kalakaua Avenue. The developments are Paoakalani, Makua Alii, and Kalakaua Homes.

"HCDCH is excited to partner with the federal government and the private non-profit sector to support and enrich opportunities for people with disabilities and for our seniors to age in place," said Robert J. Hall, Acting Executive Director of the HCDCH. "Eighty per cent of our elderly and disabled residents in the Kalakaua buildings live alone. This program will help them to live independently."

The SHARE program is a partnership between the Housing and Community Development Corporation of Hawaii (HCDCH), the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and the Honolulu Gerontology Program of Child & Family Services

The Honolulu Gerontology Program of Child & Family Services provides supportive services and resident activities at these developments. The services offered include individualized case management, translation services and group programs.

Case management assists residents to access community-based services, many of which are funded or provided by the City's Elderly Affairs Division and the state Department of Human Services' Adult and Community Care Branch.

Translation services will enable non-English speakers to access these services and to participate more fully in community life. Group programs will support socialization and wellness activities to improve the residents' overall quality of life, self-sufficiency and ability to remain in their homes.

"HUD's ROSS grant gives elderly and people with disabilities supportive services that allow them to live independently," said HUD Assistant Secretary Michael Liu. "Because of this funding, residents at these public housing developments will continue to enjoy their independent lifestyle."

Doug Kreider, Administrator of the Honolulu Gerontology Program, added, "We are very excited about this new opportunity to serve Hawaii's elderly and disabled citizens. This is the culmination of several years of effort, and we're pleased to be starting to provide these services."

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